

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1-2 (canceled).

Claim 3 (currently amended): A packaging machine comprising:
a cylindrical chute;
means for bending an elongated bag-making film into a tubular form around said chute by mutually overlapping side edges of said film;
a heater unit for longitudinally sealing said mutually overlapping side edges of said film;
heater driving means for moving said heater unit between a sealing position at which said heater unit contacts said film and a retracted position at which said heater unit is separated from said chute;
a motor for moving said heater unit between a work area that includes said sealing position and said retracted position and a non-work area that is farther removed from said chute than said work area; and
~~an~~ a force-controlling air cylinder for controlling compressive force with which said heater unit at said sealing position compresses said film against said chute by having air of a specified pressure supplied thereto;
wherein said force-controlling air cylinder and said heater unit are affixed to one end of an elongated arm member and said heater driving means includes ~~another~~ a heater-moving air cylinder which serves to move said arm member.

Claims 4-17 (canceled).

Claim 18 (currently amended): A packaging machine comprising:
a cylindrical chute;
means for bending an elongated bag-making film into a tubular form around said chute by mutually overlapping side edges of said film;
a heater unit for longitudinally sealing said mutually overlapping side edges of said

film;

heater driving means for moving said heater unit between a sealing position at which said heater unit contacts said film and a retracted position at which said heater unit is separated from said chute;

a motor for moving said heater unit between a work area that includes said sealing position and said retracted position and a non-work area that is farther removed from said chute than said work area;

~~an~~ a force-controlling air cylinder for controlling compressive force with which said heater unit at said sealing position compresses said film against said chute by having air of a specified pressure supplied thereto;

pressure regulating means for regulating air pressure supplied to said force-controlling air cylinder to a specified pressure level; and

a controller for controllingly varying said specified pressure level;

wherein said force-controlling air cylinder and said heater unit are affixed to one end of an elongated arm member and said heater driving means includes another a heater-moving air cylinder which serves to move said arm member.

Claims 19-20 (canceled).